

Harry Thaw's Ordeal Almost Forgotten in the Terrible Tragedy Of the Young Wife Who Seeks to Save His Life by Baring Her Soul

It Is the Woman Who Is on the Rack, and Nixola Greeley-Smith Tells Evening World Readers She Believes Her Story True.

HER ATONEMENT COMPLETE FOR SORROW SHE BROUGHT.

By Nixola Greeley-Smith.



FOR two days the defendant in the Thaw case has been forgotten—the plight of Harry Thaw is overshadowed by the more terrible tragedy of the girl Evelyn who bared her soul to save him. In all our pity for the wife, have we realized the ordeal of the husband? Do we feel fully what it must be for the man who was fired to murder by Evelyn Thaw's story to sit passively in court and hear it retold?

More than once during that terrible recital it seemed to me that the man who heard it with staring eyes and writhing lips was about to leap to his feet and, forgetful of his fate that hung upon the narrative, force the pale, resolute girl who told it to desist. More than once I thought that but for the interposition of his lawyers, Thaw would make some demonstration in the court-room.

Perhaps only the consciousness that any outburst would be regarded as deliberately planned for its effect on the jury restrained him. There were those in court who said of Evelyn Thaw's confession that it was a fine piece of acting—and no emotion may be so genuine that cynics will not be found to question it!

Have you ever seen Bernhardt in "La Tosca"? At any rate, you know the great scene where Scarpia wins a woman to his will by sending her lover to the torture chamber, racking her soul with his anguished cries, till she can bear no more. And you have never questioned that in the ordeal the woman suffered more.

WOMAN WHO IS ON THE RACK.

In the equally terrible tragedy being enacted in Judge Fitzgerald's court, it is the woman who is on the rack—the husband who watches her agony and perhaps endures a greater agony than she.

There can be no question of Harry Thaw's great love for his wife, his "poor, misguided angel," whose wings were trailed in the dark ooze of the Tenderloin so early.

Love, tenderness, respect for her is breathed in every line of the strange, rambling, incoherent letters he wrote her. And the strength of that love can be the only measure of the torture he endured during her story.

Perhaps, though, he realized that in the hushed silence of the awful moment when Evelyn Thaw's slain innocence rose from its tomb to bear eternal witness against its sayer all individualities were merged, all identities lost. We were no longer men and women in that room. Words fell on women's ears that they had never heard. Vice stalked in naked hideousness before them, yet they were not ashamed. They did not shrink from the man who heard it and saw these horrors too. They had forgotten them. Before that tragedy of outraged womanhood, conventions were swept away. And each man, each woman in the court-room heard Evelyn's Thaw's story as if it were addressed to them alone. And they believed it. Later doubts may have crept into some minds, questions of probability may have assailed them. But for one moment every one thought it true.

BELIEVES HER STORY TRUE.

After two days I think it true!

But if it were not true? What of it? Perhaps there are sublime lies as well as sublime truths. In any case, the girl's ordeal was just as great, and her atonement to Harry Thaw for any sorrow she may have brought upon him as complete. In that atonement her new soul was born. Whatever Evelyn Thaw may have done in the past is blotted out.

The hour of her agony is not yet over. Yesterday her testimony was along lighter and less horrible lines.

But her story is not yet fully told. On Monday she must resume it. Later she must face Mr. Jerome's cross-examination. He will be very gentle with her, but relentless. I don't think, by her testimony, he will be able to shake her story, though it is possible other witnesses he intends to call may do so.

Evelyn Thaw, in my opinion, is a match for the District-Attorney Mr. Jerome in exquisitely polite and considerate in his manner towards her. She is charmingly deferential to him. When she puts up her two small hands on either side of her mouth, at right angles with her pale cheeks, and, leaning toward him, whispers a suppressed name in his ear, you would think them the best friends in the world. You would never guess that it is the man's duty to try to send the woman's husband to the electric chair, and that she is bending every energy to save him.

Not before Tuesday, it is thought, will the battle for Harry Thaw's life begin, and meantime Mr. Jerome and Evelyn Thaw, the man who would destroy and the woman who must deliver, smile at each other.

TWO POSES OF EVELYN NESBIT THAW AS WITNESS

Sketched in Court Especially for The Evening World by ARTIST PERLEY.



RUSSIAN GIRL TERRORISTS ARE CAUGHT IN RAID

Headquarters of Plotters Against Notables in Female University.

MOSCOW, Feb. 8.—The headquarters of the Flying Group of Terrorists, whence agents were sent out to execute the recent sentences imposed on Count Ismailov, a member of the Council of War, and Lieut. Gen. Pavlov, Procurator-General, Major Gen. Yen der Leubitz, chief of police at St. Petersburg, and S. A. Alexandrovsky, Governor of Penza, has been located at the Moscow Female University.

CRUSHED TO DEATH IN THE MACHINERY.

George Rehn, of No. 763 East One Hundred and Eighty-third street, Bronx, was instantly killed to-day while at work at Nos. 4 and 5 Dutch street. While working around the machinery he was caught and crushed.

TAFT'S CALL TO FORTIFY HAWAII INTERESTS JAPAN

Significant, Says Tokio in Pointed Comment on War Talk.

TOKIO, Feb. 8. (Afternoon.)—In discussing the anti-Japanese feeling expressed by a portion of the American press, all classes whose opinion is worthy of consideration are significantly reserved. The two prevailing sentiments noticeable are a strong disdain and contempt for the papers in America which entertain the idea of a war between Japan and the United States and implicit confidence in President Roosevelt, who is regarded as the true type of American.

People are inclined to smile with satisfaction at the outbreak of what appears to them as a ridiculous agitation and at the barbaity practiced toward innocent children in a Christian land which has been classed by missionaries and others as a country which possessed the only true religion and the only true God.

The Japanese have no doubt been smarting under the assumed superiority of Christian nations and now to find such an occurrence amid Christian civilization serves in their judgment as the confession of an inferiority, moral and otherwise.

BIGELOW BACK, FIRES HOT SHOT AT ROOSEVELT

Writer Declares President Is Deceiving the Public About Panama Canal.

Poulton Bigelow, the American writer, was among the passengers returning today on the Hamburg-American liner America. He signed his return after an absence of a few weeks by firing a broadside at Theodore Roosevelt and the part the President has played in exploiting the Panama Canal.

"President Roosevelt has given it out," he said, "that the American workmen have turned the heel of the canal sixty-five feet at the Culabra Cut. That is far from the truth. The fact is they have not lowered it a single inch at that point. The President is deceiving the American people and American engineers."

SEVEN SUFFOCATE WHILE TRAPPED IN BURNING MINE

Rescuers Overcome in All-Night Attempt to Rescue Victims.

(Special to The Evening World.) WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Feb. 8.—After working all night in an endeavor to rescue the seven men who in No. 18 colliery of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company's mine at Wanamie by a fire in the workings above them, the rescuers today came upon the bodies of six of them. All were dead, having been suffocated by the increasing smoke from the fire. The seventh is also believed to be dead, as the smoke filled the air passages.

TWO DEAD, DOZEN HURT IN WRECK OF TRAIN.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 8.—Passenger train No. 203 on the Frisco line from Memphis due here at 5:30 A. M. and running late, was wrecked near Pratt City, Ala.

Two persons are reported killed and about forty hurt.

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